NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
April 4, 1997

The Field Live!

Once again, The Field Museum went live via satellite into schools across America. On March 25, through a partnership with Ball State and the Indiana Academy, the Museum did two live broadcast with the cooperation of the Education and Geology Departments.

This electronic field trip called "Secrets of the Rock" followed the travels of a fossil from "the field to the Field." The two programs focused on our Geology Department including: **Kathy Passaglia** and fossil prep, **Greg Buckley** and collections cataloging, **Bill Simpson** and the vertebrate fossil (mammal) collection and **Peter Wagner** and the invertebrate fossil collection. Along with host **Peter Laraba** from the Education Department, the group answered numerous questions called in from the live audience from states as far away as California and Florida.

This was the third such broadcast conducted over the past two years. A fourth one is planned for this fall from an actual dig site in Colorado, near where Elmer Riggs uncovered the Apatosaurus and Brachiosaurus specimens presently on display. Be sure to keep an eye out for it!

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the project and provided the necessary support required for such a large undertaking. We especially want to thank the Geology Department, Security, Engineering, Visitor Services and Education Department for going above and beyond.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

GRANT AWARDED TO MINT MUSEUM OF ART FOR TRAVEL TO THE FIELD MUSEUM

The Museum Loan Network, a program funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, has allocated funds to The Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte North Carolina. The funding will be used for travel to The Field Museum, the Denver Art Museum, and the Brooklyn Museum to explore loans of pre-columbian art.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

CHERNOFF RETURNS FROM VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL

Associate Curator, **Barry Chernoff** (Zoology, Fishes) recently returned from five-and-a-half weeks of fieldwork and development activities in Venezuela and Brazil. The trip was divided into three portions. The first segment of ten days took place aboard a private boat (150 feet) that was placed at the disposal of Barry and Research Associate **Antonio Machado** (Zoology).

They sailed the vessel up the Orinoco River and made important collections in the lower Orinoco and the Delta Amacuro, focusing on the blackwater rivers entering from the south. They collected more than 100 species of fishes, including several that are new to science. Barry and Antonio were then met by their field team from Universidad Central de Venezuela at Cd. Bolivar and they traveled by truck into the south eastern portion of the Guyana Shield. This region of the Cuyuni is very poorly known and is part of the Essequibo River Basin. Working from dugout canoes and road crossings, the team collected many species, including a new Bryconops with a brilliant crimson tail. The last ten days, Barry spent with board members of Conservation International in the Pantanal. He gave presentations on the AquaRAP program and accompanied the board members for snorkeling in the crystal-clear Rio Bonito (two new species sighted), as well as angling for thirty pound dourado (Salminus maxillosus) in the Rio Bonito.

RIEPPEL ON THE RADIO

Recently BBC World Service conducted a radio interview with Curator **Olivier Rieppel,** (Geology) which focused on his recent research on the evolution of turtles. Rieppel, along with his colleague **Michael deBraga** (Erindale College, Ontario), have been studying the evolutionary relationships between turtles and other reptiles. Their research brings new light to current beliefs that turtles are a "living fossil" member of the primitive reptile class anapsids, and have survived 325 million years of life on earth. Through computer analysis of turtle skeletal characteristics Rieppel and deBraga have found that turtles probably evolved more recently than previously thought. The results of the analysis suggest that turtles are related to the more advanced reptiles (diapsids) that evolved 100 million years later than the anapsids. Rieppel and deBraga's findings will be analyzed by other experts, some of which are skeptical of the new findings.

FLYNN, KUSIMBA AND STANLEY ON THE AIR

Assistant Curator **Chap Kusimba** (Anthropology), Collection Manager **Bill Stanley** (Zoology, Mammals) and MacArthur Curator **John Flynn** (Geology) were recently heard on the WBEZ radio program "Metropolis" with Aaron Freeman. Stanley toured Aaron through various mammal exhibits and described the world's mammalian diversity in four minutes, twenty-six seconds. Kusimba directed him through "Africa" and recounted the history of the African continent and peoples in four minutes, thirty-seven seconds. Flynn lead him through "Life over Time" and explained evolution in a record five minutes, twelve seconds! Freeman was "testing" the museum as a possible site for early morning aerobics classes.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, April 1, 1997 was delivered by **Deborah Bakken**, Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, Field Museum. Deborah discussed analysis of vertebrate remains from the Hexian site in eastern China as part of her larger study of hominid evolution. She focused on an assemblage of mid-Pleistocene age, about 200,000 ya., comprising the hominid, *Homo erectus*, as well as ungulates and carnivores. She posed the question: which group of predators, hominids or carnivores was responsible for presence of the ungulate remains in this cave? Her analysis of the mortality profile of the principal ungulate, an extinct species of large deer, as well as bone marks indicated a combination of hominid and carnivore predation. She concluded hominid occupation of the cave was discontinuous, and alternated with carnivore occupation.

Help!

The Education Department is looking for plastic buckets/pails with covers. The five gallon variety or small would work well. Please contact **Peter Laraba** (x587) if you have any that we can use. Thanks.

Take yourself, your friends, and your family to:

"It's Wild in Chicago"

A Festival celebrating the first anniversary of Chicago Wilderness, and Earth Month '97.

Where: Stanley Field Hall
When: Thursday & Friday, April 10 & 11, 10 am-1 pm
Saturday, April 12, 10 am-3 pm

"It's Wild in Chicago" will feature a special exhibit in Stanley Field Hall focusing on Chicago area native communities, hands on activities for children, and entertainment for the whole family including a storyteller, a sing-along, and a puppet show to celebrate and learn about native habitats of the Chicago region.

Chicagoland has more than buildings and streets,
As a place to find nature it just can't be beat.
With wetlands and woodlands and prairies of worth,
It's one of the rarest of places on earth.

So come take a hike down the Nature Walk trail,
Use your eyes and your ears, read the notes on the rail.
And soon you'll discover it's not one bit hard
To learn about nature in Chicago's backyard.

(An excerpt from the Self-Guided Tour booklet for Nature Walk)

Please Join Us! -- Submitted by **Cathy Geraghty** (x432)

It's April and It's Earth Month!!

With the arrival of Earth Day in a couple of weeks this is a good time for us all to stop and consider whether we each, as individuals, are doing all we can to improve the quality of our environment. Home and the workplace are good places to start in this effort and following the rules "Reduce - Reuse - Recycle" on a daily basis is one way to make a big difference.

A few tips on working toward an earth-friendly work environment:

Try to reduce waste. Don't make that copy unless you absolutely have to. If a memo is half a page long, fit two of them on a page when making copies. Double side xerox whenever you can.

Try to reuse materials. Use the back sides of old documents for note paper when a perfect piece of paper isn't required. Buy recycled products.

Please recycle! If it can't be reused and if it is recyclable, **PLEASE** make sure it gets recycled and keep it out of the garbage and, ultimately, out of the land fills.

The Field Museum recycling program currently makes it possible for staff and volunteers to recycle all of the following materials:

> most **paper** (exceptions include paper towels, napkins and tissues, brown paper bags, photos, carbon paper, plates, cups, and food-contaminated paper)
> **cardboard** (we're now the proud owners of a brand new baler! Yay!!)
> **glass, cans**, #s 1, 2, 3 & 4 **plastics**
> clean **styrofoam peanuts** and **plastic bubble wrap**

In order for the program to work, we must ensure that everything is put in the right place:

Paper from the blue or black office bins is recycled in BRIGHT green totes stationed around the building.

Cardboard boxes MUST BE BROKEN DOWN and deposited in the collection place designated for your area. Please don't expect our Housekeeping staff to pick them up just anywhere.

Glass, cans and plastic are recycled in DARK green totes (also stationed around the building) and in the receptacles in Picnic in the Field.

Styrofoam peanuts and **bubble wrap** can be dropped off with **Mary Anne Rogers** (Div. of Fishes, ext. 272) for reuse.

If it isn't obvious to you where the recycling totes and cardboard collection place are in your area, please ask one of your coworkers. If you have other questions about our program please feel free to contact the Recycling Committee volunteer in your area or **Bill Stanley** (ext. 491) or **Mary Anne Rogers** (ext. 272). The current members of the Recycling Committee are **Paul Baker, John Wagner, James Atkinson, Carolyn Moon, Peter Lowther, Janice Klein, Gene Dillenberg, Sophie Twichell, and Mike Paha.** The 1997 rotating volunteers for the

Administration paper tote are: **Randal Scalf, Randall Smith, Tom Geary, Lorraine Petkus, Joe Halik, Maria Thomas, Doris Yelvington, Paula Brandabur, Carolyn Klyce, Armand Esai, Robert Vosper and Susan VandenBosch.**

Other Museum recycling efforts:

Thanks to the efforts of **Gale Asikin**, mountains of plastic 6-pack rings from the cans that go into our vending machines are being returned to the ring manufacturer who **reuses** the plastic for more rings.

The most recent addition to our recycling efforts is the reuse of old Museum stationery. Do you work in an office that periodically throws out (hopefully into a recycling container!) obsolete stationery such as Museum letterhead or other printed forms? In an effort to reduce waste and save some trees, some staff members are happy to use the back sides of such paper supplies to xerox onto or to use in their office printers. You can help by depositing your stacks of unwanted paper in the box near the mailroom xerox machine labeled "Discarded Stationery; No Xeroxed Paper, Please". While the back sides of xeroxed pages are useful for many things, the inked side could cause some damage if fed into printers.

A list to keep and post...

Papers that are acceptable and not acceptable for recycling at the Museum are:

YES	**NO!!!**
white and colored bond paper/copy paper	tissue paper, paper towels, napkins
letterheads	food contaminated paper
computer paper	plastic
NCR forms	cardboard (to be recycled separately)
stationery, tablet sheets	hanging file folders
data tab cards	plastic overheads
file folders	photographs
catalogs	carbon paper
envelopes (plastic windows OK)	plates, cups
magazines	brown bags
newspaper	
fax paper	
phone books	
ream wrappers	
books	
staples, paper clips, rubber bands are OK	

NOTE: Please leave large quantities of obsolete material (brochures, files, records) in boxes for pick-up.

WELCOME! Staff Members who started in March

Kathryn Bellovich	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Boysie Caison	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep	235
Anita Copolillo	Botany	MSS I - Collections Assistant	592
Joshua Dudle	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator I	329
Kevin Edgeworth	Institutional Adv	Secretary II - Capital Campaign	210
Julie Gamble	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator I	329
Steve Hageman	Geology	Post-doc Research Assistant	477
Elizabeth Kantorski	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator I	329
Lucinda Nicholas	Exhibits	Graphic Designer II	834
Adam Shapiro	Institutional Adv	Assistant to the VP	617
Peter Stevenson	Exhibits	Developer II	636
Denise Bautista	Housekeeping	Housekeeper I	371

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION!

Lanet Jarrett	Anthropology	Assoc Collections Registrar	611/313
Ben Williams	Library	MS-Library V (Librarian)	280
Lisa Wodis	Budget	Budget Administrator	542

GOODBYE and GOOD LUCK... Staff Members who left in March

Calvin Gray	Exhibits	Developer
Julie Nauman	Exhibits	Graphic Designer II
Heidi Snell	Human Resources	Human Resources Representative

NEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Our next new staff and volunteer orientation session will be held in Lecture Hall II on Thursday, April 17 from 8:45 a.m. until 12 noon. Recently hired staff and volunteers are cordially invited to attend. The program includes refreshments, a presentation featuring guest speakers and a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the Museum. Check with your supervisor if you plan to attend. Space is limited, so call **Mark Alvey** in Education (x360) to reserve your space today!

The Education Department is looking for plastic buckets/pails with covers. The five gallon variety or small would work well. Please contact Peter Laraba (x587) if you have any that we can use. Thanks

BEARS SCHEDULE 1997

Pre-Season
Sunday, July 27 at Pittsburgh
Saturday, Aug. 2 at Buffalo
Sunday, Aug. 10 at Miami
Saturday, Aug. 16 vs Arizona 7 pm -- HOME
Friday, Aug. 22 vs. New Orleans 7:30 pm -- HOME

1997 Schedule ET

Monday, Sept. 1, 9 p.m.	@Green Bay
Sunday, Sept. 7, 1 p.m.	Minnesota - HOME
Sunday, Sept. 14, 1 p.m.	Detroit - HOME
Sunday, Sept. 21, 1 p.m.	@New England
Sunday, Sept. 28, 4 p.m.	@Dallas
Sunday, Oct. 5, 8 p.m.	New Orleans - HOME
Sunday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m.	Green Bay - HOME
Monday, Oct. 20	Open Date
Sunday, Oct. 26, 4 p.m.	@Miami
Sunday, Nov. 2, 1 p.m.	Washington - HOME
Sunday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m.	@Minnesota
Sunday, Nov. 16, 4 p.m.	N.Y. Jets - HOME
Sunday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m.	Buffalo - HOME
Sunday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.	@St. Louis
Sunday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m.	@Tampa Bay

Thanks to *all* the people who sent in the schedule.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the friends and family of **Nancy Adams** who died Tuesday, April 1. Nancy joined the Museum staff in November 1983, working first in the store, then in Finance and finally in Security and Visitor Services. She retired in April 1996. Nancy was respected and known for her warm personality, referring to herself as the "mother figure" of Visitor Services. She will be missed by many here at the Museum and in the community.

Construction Briefs:

Visitor Services has moved to the old Classroom 4 off the second floor north end of the balcony. The loading dock is under construction -- thanks to all who have remembered to schedule their deliveries.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon.

EMPLOYEE SALE -- April 7 & 8

The following piece of equipment will be available for sale to Museum employees:

Clark Lift Truck
Model: TW25B
Built: 1971
Power: Electric
Capacity: 2500 lbs.
Lift Height: 10 ft.
Fork Length: 3 ft.

Charger
Batter: KW
Cells: 12
Charger Mfg: Crusader
Model: 12RR630
Phase: Single
Unit Operating? Yes

Minimum acceptable bid: $800

The lift truck will be available for inspection on April 7 & 8 in the Museum's Shipping and Receiving Department. Employees interested in purchasing this truck must submit a sealed bid to **Tom Geary** by April 10. Personnel with the highest bid will be notified by April 11. ***Note: Lift truck is being sold on "as is" basis.***

OFFICER OF THE DAY for the coming weekend will be: **Diane White** on Saturday, April 5; and **Ray Bondoc** on Sunday, April 6.